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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

MATTHEW WESAW
DIRECTOR

Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan
Doubletree Hotel by Hilton
One Wenonah Place
Bay City, Michigan

February 7, 2014
Meeting Minutes No. 292

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Gil Guzman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Gil Guzman, Noel Garcia, Jr., Norma Huizar, Carlos Alvarado, Osvaldo Rivera, Julio Morales, Armando Hernandez, Sonya Hernandez, Jesse Venegas, Carlos Sanchez, Gilberto Guevara

Excused Absence: JoAnn Chavez (work commitment), Julia Guevara (work commitment)

Staff Present: Marylou Mason, Victoria Garcia

II. Introduction of Commissioners

Chairman Guzman asked Commissioners and staff to introduce themselves.

III. Welcoming Remarks

Commissioner Guevara thanked the Commission for coming to the Bay City area.

IV. Approval of Absences: JoAnn Chavez (work commitment), Julia Guevara (work commitment)

MOTION: Commissioner Sonya Hernandez moved to accept the absences of Commissioners Chavez and Guevara. Motion supported by Commissioner Guevara. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Sanchez moved to accept the agenda of February 7, 2014. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez supported the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Sanchez moved to accept the minutes of October 11, 2013. Discussion – typo on page 1, spelling of Sanchez. Commissioner Sonya Hernandez asked if it was typical to have presenters at the meetings. Chairman Guzman stated it was very common

to have presenters. Commissioner Morales supported the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Special Presentation: Ms. Linda Lee Tarver, Director of Community Affairs & Election Integrity, Office of the Secretary of State, Ruth Johnson:

Ms. Tarver thanked the Commission for inviting her to the meeting and for the opportunity to discuss accomplishments and current projects the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) is working. She stated she has worked for the state of MI for 29 years with 25 of those years with the Secretary of State's Office. She has served under four Secretaries of State: Richard Austin, Candace Miller, Terri Lynn Land, and Ruth Johnson. She has been a legislative analyst, project manager and now as Director of Community Affairs & Election Integrity. Ms. Tarver also discussed the various projects and programs available to individuals with language barriers or to those with disabilities.

VII. Public Forum:

Rosa Morales, Saginaw: Ms. Morales stated she wanted to inform the Commission of a program going on in Saginaw County by the Mexican American Council (MAC). The MAC is involved with working with the Saginaw System of Care on disproportionate minority count on juveniles - the pipeline from school to prison. There are efforts underway to by Bobby DeLeon, President of MAC, and other non-profit organizations such as the GI Forum, to address this issue. She stated that kids either get pushed out, dropped out, high truancy, and many other reasons that kids act out. They are concerned about the lack of Hispanic data in all of these arenas. There is a six million dollar grant from the federal government to the Saginaw County Mental Health Authority and the MAC to begin addressing the issues that really cause these kids to act out. There are emotionally disturbed kids may be victims of trauma or some have witnessed trauma. Somehow these kids fall through the cracks. So working together on this grant, the Saginaw County System of Care, Juvenile Justice Judge Adson has taken this initiative to another level to address what are causes, symptoms, numbers, what can we do to help. Ms. Morales handed out a flyer to commissioners on types of outreach efforts they are taking to involve families, parents or guardians. The Hispanic families are not participating like other minority groups. Ms. Morales stated she brought this information to the Commission to help HLCOM serve our communities better as this is not limited to Saginaw County. She suggested having a representative from the Mexican American Council come to a future meeting to discuss this issue further.

Chairman Guzman advised Ms. Morales that the Commission would welcome a speaker from MAC. He advised her to refer to the 2014 meeting schedule for

possible dates and to let us know if they want to be put on the agenda for a presentation.

Charles Brunner, 96th District State Representative: Rep. Brunner welcomed the Commission to Bay City. He stated he is very supportive of the Hispanic and minority community. He stated the education system is under assault. We cannot provide a good education if these children are not getting mentorship or help to steer them in the right direction. He stated is a former teacher for 30 years in public education and is a huge supporter of it. Public education has been a many huge hits over the last 10-15 years. He stated he is happy to hear about the program that Ms. Morales discussed as it very much needed.

Commissioner Guevara advised Rep. Brunner he would like to talk to him in the future, along with other Hispanic leaders of Bay County, to discuss issues and how we can help each other and work together.

Rick Garcia, Historical Society of Michigan & former HLCOM Commissioner: Mr. Garcia brought a publication and distributed to all Commissioners. He pointed out in the magazine a story of a book that featured many immigrants and their life stories with our Executive Director Marylou Mason as one of the subjects.

Mr. Garcia stated the Historical Society has been in existence since 1928 and is the oldest non-profit in the state of Michigan. The Society promotes and preserves the stories that we want to continue to collect and share with future generations. He asked Commissioners to consider opportunities in their own families, or have any historical farms, businesses, etc., that have historical significance; they are interested in sharing with their readers. The Michigan History Magazine is one of the largest circulated magazines in the country with over 25,000 in circulation and membership and 100,000 readerships.

He also noted that on March 21, 2014, the Julian Samora Research Institute will be holding the 3rd Latino Summit which is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield. It will be held at the Kellogg Center and the topic affordable health care.

Chairman Guzman stated we had previously scheduled our bi-monthly Commission meeting that same day and we changed it to March 20th as to allow Commissioners and others to attend both meetings.

Mr. Garcia stated there has been discussion to have a media listing of Latino leaders around the state that can become a source on expert matters that deal with education, economic development, and other areas. He suggested Commissioners participate in this venture. He asked all Commissioners to provide a profile or biography and submit to the office. He will work with the HLCOM office to compile the key information, along with photographs, to be a resource for media contacts.

Linda Lee Tarver, Secretary of State's Office: Ms. Tarver announced her office is taking on an 8-month urban area tour around the state to highlight some of the

unknown community services that are available to Michigan residents. They will have presentations on all of the services that they provide. They are bringing in community partners and we will be doing presentations on items you may not know about such as you can get a free identification if you are on certain aid or programs, or women who wear veils and do not feel comfortable taking off their veils in public, they provide female managers to come in early before regular hours to take the picture, they have mobile offices to go to senior centers, they also provide bilingual services. They have partnered with many agencies such as libraries to make sure that residents have access to their online services as well. The SOS will also provide information about jobs and or contract jobs with SOS or within the state of Michigan.

The tour will include an 8 city tour to include: Grand Rapids, Benton Harbor, Muskegon, Flint, Detroit, Saginaw, Lansing, Jackson.

Dalia Smith, Saginaw System of Care: Ms. Smith works with Community Health and Saginaw SAMSA on a grant for mental health services for children and the foster care system. She attended the meeting to learn what HLCOM does and how we could work together.

Lee Gonzales, Liaison to the HLCOM, MI Dept. of Civil Rights: Mr. Gonzales reported he is the new liaison for the Commission and is excited to be working with the Hispanic community. He stated that since yesterday's strategic session, it was very obvious that the need for Hispanic data is dire as it fuels money through grants, etc. He stated our friendly competitors in other ethnic groups are on a very fast pace. The APIA Vote Michigan organization did a need assessment entitled "Rising Voices, Revealing Truths." The 100-page, brightly covered report was provided to every legislator.

He stated he recently met Van Nugyen, with the Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce. She said the challenge in her community is that the Chamber has its silo and the APIA that has done a need assessment on social issues has their silo and sometimes they don't talk well to each other. He thought that was interesting because he felt the same problem occurs within the Hispanic community.

The Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights is grappling with the same issue. We want to make sure we rebrand and repurposing our department to be all it can be. Detroit is a big piece of that puzzle. I will be sending you information on the Michigan Office for New Americans. He stated their website is spectacular. He also stated he will be sending information on a tremendous model by the Massachusetts New American's Agenda. They have held many public forums and have really put together a comprehensive package. He said he is sure that Michigan's will be in pace with their program.

Mr. Gonzales said we have a chance to make this great commission even better.

VIII. Executive Reports

A. Chairperson's Report:

Chairman Guzman stated Mr. Lee Gonzales is the Commission's new liaison, as well as the department's legislative liaison. Director Wesaw made a great decision to assign him to our office and we are very pleased to have him work with us. We have worked with Lee for many years when he was a state representative and is very familiar with our work. He also commented that Director Wesaw was present at our retreat and participated in our planning session.

Chairman Guzman announced that Executive Director Mason was recently appointed as the National Council of La Raza's Midwest Affiliate Female Representative. He stated is very proud and feels like the NCLR made an excellent choice in their appointment.

He stated he feels this commission is moving forward and yesterday's retreat is an example of how committed we are to what we do and to being a representative of the Hispanic/Latino community in this state.

B. Executive Director's Report:

Director Mason stated Commissioners have had the opportunity to review her report and she entertained any questions they may have.

Director Mason asked Commissioners to review the Commission Roster that was in their packets for any changes or corrections. Chairman Guzman asked the office to please add Lee Gonzales to the roster.

There was discussion on how appointments to the Commission are made. Ms. Mason explained that the Governor's Appointments Office makes the decisions.

Commissioner Morales states at the October Meeting it was discussed how the Commission could have more influence on appointments. Ms. Mason explained she recently met with the appointments office and they always want to see attendance lists and know what commissioners are actively participating on committees. She did share with the appointments office some of the problems we have experienced with attendance and participation.

Commissioner Guevara inquired if the appointments office considers the balance of men and women appointees because the concern has been brought up. Ms. Mason replied they do and this issue was brought up.

Commissioner Morales asked if they also consider ethnicity as well. Ms. Mason stated that they do consider ethnicity as well representation in different areas around the state. Ms. Mason stated the appointments office indicated they are looking for a person in the northern Michigan with potentially a health background.

Ms. Mason reviewed locations on the 2014 Meeting Schedule. She commented that the March 14th meeting had to be changed to the 20th due

to mandatory departmental training. She also commented that the Latino Summit will be held on March 21st, the day following our next meeting. She asked Commissioners to please inform the office if they need overnight lodging.

Ms. Mason explain the process and all that is entailed in planning for the June meeting and visiting the migrant camps. It takes a lot of planning to schedule migrant camp visits.

Commissioners Alvarado and Venegas both expressed that last year was their first time visiting a migrant camp and what a wonderful, rewarding and humbling experience it is. Commissioner Venegas encouraged Commissioners to start a clothing drive as these families are so appreciative of the clothing, health and beauty items, and other household items. They both highly recommended all commissioners attend if at all possible.

Commissioner Sanchez offered to assist with the planning and be a host for the Traverse City meeting, along with Traverse City hostess's Sylvia and Gladys.

Ms. Mason handed out a flyer to remind Commissioners about the annual Hispanic Heritage Month/Chavez Banquet that will be held on Sept. 17, 2014 in Lansing at the Radisson Hotel.

Commissioner Alvarado inquired if we would hold MI Hispanic Advocacy Day the same day as Hispanic Heritage Month. Ms. Mason state no as it is too much work to plan two large events to be held the same day.

Commissioner Morales asked that it would be helpful if the director's report, starting next year, would reflect the a brief purpose and outcome of meetings as he doesn't know what most of the meetings are regarding.

Commissioner Sanchez asked if there could be a brief report that is tied to our goals of each committee. This would show that staff is in need of support or it would show that you can attend to a particular meeting because it doesn't support our strategic plan for this year. This would serve as a dashboard as the retreat facilitator mentioned.

Commissioner Alvarado asked if the website could reflect a common calendar of all events. Ms. Mason stated we would ask but we didn't control the content and we are limited to what we can add.

Commissioner Guevara asked Ms. Mason about telephone calls from other states and why we involved. Ms. Mason stated that these calls were regarding the unemployment office and at the time, the individual lived in MI and he was having difficulty with the system. The other call

involved a referral from the Attorney General's office where an individual was trying to file a complaint through the consumer protection bureau.

Commissioner Sanchez asked the Chairman if our director could send a memorandum or make contact with other state departments to advise them we do not have the capacity to handle or solve such calls on their behalf as we are short on manpower and this doesn't fall within our strategic plan. He stated those office are in violation for not having bilingual staff to handle such calls. Commissioner S. Hernandez agreed.

Ms. Mason stated that as being one of the few commissions within the United States that we assist other state departments because some of them just don't have bilingual staff. She said perhaps we could work with these offices to assist in getting bilingual staff. Ms. Mason stated that as a state employee and she gets a call from another state agency for assistance, she has to take the call.

Chairman Guzman stated he has had an opportunity to use this voicemail system, both in English and Spanish, for the Unemployment Office and knows how difficult and frustrating it can be. People get desperate for help and call anyone who can help them.

Commissioner Alvarado stated we need to find out if this should fall on the role of the Commission because there are issues of liability. Commissioner Alvarado will be preparing a position document on this issue. The Chairmen and Executive Director will take the document to Director Wesaw for his review and approval to see how to best handle the situation.

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarado moved to accept Executive Reports. Motion supported by Commissioner A. Hernandez. Motion carried.

IX. Committee Reports:

- A. Economic Development/Agriculture: Commissioner Sanchez reported that the committee worked yesterday on the annual goals for 2014 and a draft has been completed. It will be emailed to the office. They will begin working on action items and will have a better report for the next meeting.
- B. Education/Health: Chairman Guzman reported that this committee also worked on its action items, tactics and goals at yesterday's retreat. The committee now consists of Commissioners S. Hernandez, Garcia, Morales, J. Guevara, and G. Guzman.

This committee is working on holding Hispanic/Latino Education Summits on the road which will encompass several school districts to include Paw Paw, South Haven, Holland, Muskegon, Ludington, Saginaw, Adrian, and Detroit. The United States Hispanic Leadership Institute will work with us

and provide motivational speakers. Dates to come by the end March. Commissioners in these areas will be asked to assist, if available.

Commissioner Sanchez suggested for next year cosponsoring with other education summits around the state to enhance their summits and take a lot of work off of commission. It was agreed that is a very good idea.

Chairman Guzman noted that March 4 is the date for Latino Youth Summit in Grand Rapids. The Commission is a sponsor for this event. He stated he asked Commissioner Morales if he could assist with a workshop and former Commissioner Leo Savala has been confirmed to do a workshop. He stated he sits on the board for this Summit. Mr. Gabe Salazar will be the keynote speaker.

- C. Legislative & Civic Engagement: Commissioner Alvarado stated this committee also worked on its tactics and goals at the retreat. The committee is excited to have a productive year. The committee wants to be very result-minded and the goals may not be as lofty as others but at the end of the year they want to have accomplished a successful project. Their most relevant project is to establish a solid relationship with the newly formed office for New Americans. He believes this is the key to develop the synergies and take advantage of resources that are available for them to achieve their goals in a more efficient way. The major event will be MI Hispanic Legislative Advocacy Day.

- D. Nominating Committee -Election Results: Commissioner Morales stated the election of officers was held at the retreat. The results were as follows: Gil Guzman-Chairman, Gil Guevara-Vice Chairman, Norma Huizar-Secretary, Carlos Alvarado-Trustee.

MOTION: Commissioner Rivera moved to accept committee reports. Commissioner Alvarado supported the motion. Motion carried.

X. Old Business:

- A. 2014 Meeting Schedule

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarado moved to accept the draft as the final copy for 2014 meeting schedule. Supported by Commissioner Garcia. Motion carried.

XI. New Business:

- A. 2014 Student Education Summit – discussed earlier in meeting.
B. 2014 Hispanic Heritage Month – discussed earlier in the meeting.
C. 2014 Michigan Hispanic Legislative Advocacy Day – Commissioner Alvarado stated this year the format for the day changed from walking from office to office visiting legislators to having a panel of legislators in an open forum setting with guided questions. He felt it was successful in regard to having

representative address particular topics. He added he was surprised at their candor in their responses. This year he would like to have higher quality questions that will elicit a more interesting discussion. Commissioner Alvarado thinks September or October would be good months to hold the event this year.

- D. Approval of Out of State Travel – Chairman Guzman stated that Director Wesaw asked all Commissions to pass a resolution regarding any out of state travel to attend workshops and conferences. The office staff will prepare the resolution. Ms. Mason provided a list of all out of state conferences for staff and Commissioners possibly to attend, if funds are available. There was discussion on whether there were enough funds in the budget and how each meeting relates to our strategic goals. Chairman Guzman stated the resolution was not to consider whether we have funds to travel but whether the travel itself was approved. The department will determine if there are funds available for each conference that is out of state as the request go to the department director for approval. If funds are available, the travel is approved if it is in reference to the mission of HLCOM.

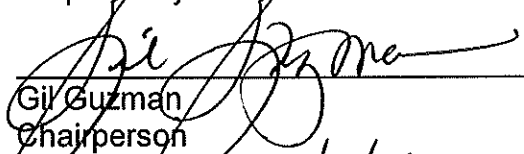
MOTION: Commissioner A. Hernandez moved to accept the out of state travel list provided by the office. Supported by Commissioner Alvarado. Motion carried.

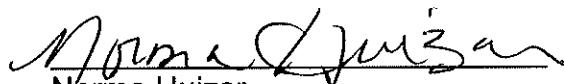
- E. Next Meeting Date: March 20, 2014 Lansing

MOTION: Commissioner Garcia motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner S. Hernandez supported the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55p.m.

Prepared by Commission staff:


Gil Guzman
Chairperson
Date 3/20/14


Norma Huizar
Secretary
Date 3/20/14